

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 4336

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, ET
SUBJ: POLITBURO AND IDEOLOGY SCHOOL TO BE UNDER PMAC CONTROL

REF: A. ADDIS ABABA 3232, B. ADDIS ABABA 4252

SUMMARY: ETHIOPIAN MEDIA REPORTED TWO PROCLAMATIONS ISSUED JULY 14 RESTRUCTURING PROVISIONAL OFFICE FOR MASS ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS (POMOA) AND YEKATIT 66 POLITICAL IDEOLOGY SCHOOL. PROCLAMATIONS HAVE EFFECT OF ELIMINATING INDEPENDENT STATUS OF POMOA AND YEKATIT 66 SCHOOL BY PLACING THEM UNDER DIRECT CONTROL OF PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINSTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC) STANDING COMMITTEE (HIGHEST RANKING COMMITTEE OF PMAC, WHICH INCLUDES CHAIRMAN AND 15 OTHER MEMBERS). PROCLAMATIONS ALSO APPEAR AIMED AT CURTAILING GROWING POLITICAL POWER OF ALL ETHIOPIAN SOCIALIST ORGANIZATION (AESO) AND COULD INVOLVE REPLACEMENT OF KEY POMOA MEMBERS. END SUMMARY.

1. IN POSSIBLE RESONSE TO GROWING POMOA POLITICAL CHALLENGE AND RUMOR OF INCREASING ADVERSARY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PMAC AND POMOA, PMAC ISSUED TWO PROCLAMATIONS JULY 14, RESTRUCTURING POMOA AND YEKATIT 66 IDEOLOGY SCHOOL. POMOA "SHALL BE UNDER DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION OF PMAC STANDING COMMITTEE." PMAC STANDING COMMITTEE (READ MENGISTU) SHALL DETERMINE NUMBER OF POMOA LEADERSHIP (RUMOR IS 15), HENCEFORTH KNOWN AS CONGRESS, APPROVE REGIONAL BRANCH HEADS, AND DISSOLVE POMOA WHEN WORKING CLASS
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PARTY ORGANIZED, UNDER WHOSE LEADERSHIP NATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY FRONT TO BE ESTABLISHED. POMOA DECISION TO BE GIVEN BY MAJORITY VOTE. POMOA CONGRESS SHALL REPORT TO PMAC STANDING COMMITTEE SECRETARY GENERAL, CURRENTLY CAPT. FIKRE-SELASSIE WOGDERESS.

2. POLITICAL SCHOOL ALSO TO COME UNDER CONTROL OF STANDING COMMITTEE SECRETARY GENERAL. PMAC WILL APPOINT HEADMASTER, ADMINISTRATOR, AND

REGULAR TEACHERS. SCHOOL IS TO TRAIN PERSONS IN MARXIST-LENINIST IDEOLOGY, WILL REGISTER, SEND, AND RECEIVE PERSONS SELECTED TO STUDY IDEOLOGY ABROAD, AND SUBMIT BI-ANNUAL REPORTS. IN OTHER ASPECTS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF POMOA AND SCHOOL NOT MUCH DIFFERENT FROM PRESENT.

3. IT RUMORED PAST SIX WEEKS REORGANIZATION OF POMOA IMMINENT, MAINLY TO CURTAIL AESO POWER. AESO, ORIGINALLY WITH PMAC ACQUISITION, HAS USED BOTH POMOA AND POLITICAL SCHOOL TO CREATE LARGE CADRE OF SUPPORTERS LOYAL TO AESO AMONG CROSS-SECTION OF INTEREST GROUPS, INCLUDING PEASANTS' AND URBAN DWELLERS' (KEBELE) ASSOCIATIONS, LABOR, SOME TEACHERS AND STUDENTS, AND SOME MILITARY MEN. AS RESULT, AESO PERCEIVED AS INCREASING THREAT TO UNILATERAL PMAC AUTHORITY, ESPECIALLY THROUGH ITS LEADERS' CALLS FOR WORKERS' PARTY TO LEAD REVOLUTION (READ CIVILIAN CONTROL OF GOVT). PMAC APPEARS TO HAVE MOVED FIRST TO SUPPRESS AESO, BEFORE IT COULD TAKE SUBVERSIVE ACTIONS AGAINST PMAC.

4. COMMENT: REORGANIZATION OF POMOA CLEAR INDICATION PMAC CONCERNED ABOUT THREAT TO ITS POWER POSED BY AESO. EXERCISE OF PMAC CONTROL OVER POMOA, IF SUCCESSFUL, WILL ASSURE THAT ANY EVENTUAL WORKERS' PARTY WILL BE MENGISTU TOOL. IT STILL TOO SOON TO KNOW IF AESO WILL ACCEPT NEW PMAC PROCLAMATIONS, ALTHOUGH ONE RELIABLE SOURCE BELIEVES AESO WILL, OR IF PMAC WILL TAKE PRE-EMPTIVE ACTION AGAINST AESO.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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